



Meat Grading & Certification Branch

## PROCEDURES FOR GRADING EXEMPTIONS

### Purpose

This Instruction sets forth Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch procedures for requesting exemptions to the regulations governing the grading of meat.

### Grading Exemptions

1. The Deputy Administrator of the Livestock and Seed (LS) Program grants exemptions. These exemptions are nontransferable between applicants or among an applicant's facilities. The length of exemptions may range from a "one-time-only" to an "indefinite" request.
2. Reasons for Requesting an Exemption may include:
  - a. The MGC Branch cannot provide grading services in a timely manner.
  - b. Religious requirements for slaughter and/or meat preparation conflict with Meat Grading regulations.
  - c. Grading occurs at a location other than slaughter or initial chill facility.
  - d. Grading of imported meat. (See MGC Instruction 504).
  - e. Grading carcasses for export only; this requires ribbing other than what is prescribed in the official grade standards. (Example: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> rib in lieu of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> rib.) (See MGC Instruction 505).
3. The Exemption List (attached) is updated as exemptions are granted. The Washington Office will conduct reviews of all approved exemptions by May 15 of each year to determine which exemptions will remain in effect. Supervisory Meat Graders (SMG) shall monitor approved grading exemptions and notify the MGC Branch Chief of any changes in a plant's status that affect the conditions under which the exemption was granted.

## Exemption Request Procedures

1. When applying for a grading exemption, applicants are encouraged to work closely with the SMG responsible for their plant. Applicants must provide the following information when requesting a grading exemption.
  - a. The name and address of establishment.
  - b. The species and/or class of product.
  - c. The location of product (if other than establishments of slaughter or initial chill).
  - d. The form that the product is to be graded in, if other than carcass.
  - e. The date and time the applicant needs grading services.
  - f. The length of time, the applicant requests the exemption apply to his/her establishment.
  - g. The reason(s) that prevent the product to be graded under the regulations.
  - h. Any additional information, which would be of benefit in determining exemption request.
2. Applicants are encouraged to submit exemption requests by electronic mail to [larry.meadows@usda.gov](mailto:larry.meadows@usda.gov).

Additionally, applicants may submit exemption requests by mail or facsimile.

Send regular mail to:     USDA, AMS, LS, MGCB  
                                  Attn: Larry R. Meadows, Chief  
                                  13952 Denver West Parkway  
                                  Suite 350  
                                  Golden, CO 80401

Send facsimile to:        720-497-0571

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## **EXEMPTION LIST**

As of April 10, 2008

**PLEASE NOTE! The Exemption List is a Quick Reference Guide ONLY.  
DO NOT use as the specific authority for providing Grading Services under an approved Exemption!**

<b><u>VENDOR</u></b>	<b><u>EST. NO.</u></b>	<b><u>EXEMPTION/COMMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>GRANTED</u></b>
ALL PLANTS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade imported Canadian beef carcasses, sides and/or matched quarters.</li> </ul>	09/24/80
Agriprocessors, Inc. 220 West Street Postville, IA 52162 (563) 864-7811	4653A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade beef hindquarters and/or veal/lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)</li> <li>Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)</li> <li>Grade Canadian beef forequarters. (Religious)</li> <li>Grade beef carcasses from Local Pride, LLC (Est. 4653G), Gordon, Nebraska</li> </ul>	05/09/89 12/29/92 03/21/03 11/09/06
Atlantic Veal & Lamb, Inc. 275 Morgan Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11211 (718) 599-6400	1509A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade veal and calf carcasses from Gold Medal Packing, Inc. (Est. 17965), Oriskany, NY and from Michigan Veal (Est. 1816), Hudsonville, MI.</li> <li>Grade imported Canadian veal and calf carcasses.</li> <li>Grade veal and calf carcasses from Golden Veal (Est. 1915), Creston, OH.</li> <li>Grade veal and calf hindsaddles from Golden Veal (Est. 1915), Creston, OH. (Religious)</li> </ul>	10/02/01 05/16/02 12/02/02 12/02/02
Aurora Packing Co. 1255 Grant Street North Aurora, IL 60542 (630) 897-0551	788	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)</li> </ul>	05/21/91
Ayrshire Farm P.O. Box 599 Upperville, VA 20185 540-592-9504	33831	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade quartered beef carcasses from Gore's Processing (Est. 27237), Edinburgh, VA.</li> </ul>	01/10/06
Beef Packers, Inc. P.O. Box 12807 Fresno, CA 93779 (559) 265-4380	354	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade beef carcasses with the cross-cut chuck removed.</li> </ul>	01/24/06

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Bro*Pack, Inc. within Manning Beef, Inc. 9531 East Beverly Road Pico Rivera, CA 90660 (562) 692-0402	934	● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)	02/28/07
Brown Packing Co., Inc. One Dutch Valley Drive South Holland, IL 60473 (708) 849-7990	167	● Grade veal and calf hindsaddles. (Religious) ● Grade imported Canadian veal and calf carcasses. ● Grade lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)	10/10/80 04/21/00 3/14/02
Carteret Abattoir, Inc. 2 Roosevelt Avenue Carteret, NJ 07008 (732) 541-6256	639	● Grade beef hindquarters.(Religious) ● Grade quartered beef carcasses.	10/01/80 10/01/91
Catelli Brothers Whsle Meats 50 Ferry Avenue Collingswood, NJ 08103 (856) 869-9293	1809	● Grade veal and calf carcasses from Shrewsbury, NJ (Est. 1809A) facility. ● Grade imported Canadian veal carcasses.	06/24/02 10/22/07
Chiappetti Wholesale Meat Co. 3810 South Halsted Chicago, IL 60609 (773) 847-1556	916	● Grade lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)	07/11/02
Cornbelt Beef Corp. 2380 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Detroit, MI 48216 (313) 237-0087	10173	● Grade veal/calf hindsaddles. (Religious) ● Grade beef hindquarters and lamb hindsaddles. (Religious) ● Grade beef carcasses from Welton Meat Packing, Minden City, MI (Est. 10173).	03/04/87 09/06/91 02/10/06
Dakota Beef, LLC 507 East Highway 34 Howard, SD 57349 605-772-5669	31871	● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)	02/21/08

<b><u>VENDOR</u></b>	<b><u>EST. NO.</u></b>	<b><u>EXEMPTION/COMMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>GRANTED</u></b>
Delft Blue LLC 36 Garden Street New York Mills, NY 13417 (315) 768-7100	27450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade veal carcasses from Gold Medal Packing, Rome, NY (EST. 17965).</li> <li>● Grade veal hindsaddles from Gold Medal Packing, Rome, NY (EST. 17965). (Religious)</li> <li>● Grade imported Canadian veal/calf carcasses.</li> <li>● Grade hide-off veal and calf carcasses slaughtered and skinned at P&amp;N Packing, Wyalusing, Pennsylvania</li> <li>● Grade hid-off veal and calf carcasses slaughtered and skinned at Ohio Farms Packing Company, Creston, Ohio</li> </ul>	07/20/07 09/07/07 11/16/07  01/10/08  01/10/08
Elkhorn Valley Packing Co. 101 Central Harper, KS 67058 (620) 896-2300	19549	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade beef carcasses from Wellington, KS (Est. 19549A).</li> </ul>	01/11/06
Ellensburg Lamb Co., Inc. 7390 Rio Dixon Rd Dixon, CA 95620 (707) 678-3091	2800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade imported Australian and/or New Zealand lamb carcasses.</li> <li>● Grade veal/calf carcasses from Dairyman's Meat Company, Inc. (Est. 301), Merced, CA.</li> </ul>	08/28/97 08/11/03
Firehouse Meats, LLC 2937 E 2nd Street The Dalles, OR 97058 541-395-2766	34528	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade matched beef quarters from Oregon Beef, Madras, OR (Est. 9289)</li> <li>● Grade matched pork half carcasses Oregon Beef, Madras, OR (Est. 9289)</li> <li>● Grade lamb carcasses Oregon Beef, Madras, OR (Est. 9289)</li> </ul>	04/10/08 04/10/08 04/10/08
Frontier Meats 3801 N. Grove Street Fort Worth, TX 76106 (817) 624-1136	7041 7041B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)</li> <li>● Grade veal and calf hindsaddles. (Religious)</li> <li>● Grade lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)</li> </ul>	05/31/07 06/28/07 06/28/07
G&C Packing Company 240 South 21st Street Colorado Springs, CO 80934 (719) 634-1587	931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)</li> </ul>	04/09/07
Gateway Beef Cooperative 1428 Edwardsville Road Granite City, IL 62040 (618) 451-0010	931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)</li> </ul>	04/28/03

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Gem Meat Packing 515 East 45 <sup>th</sup> Street Boise, ID 83704 (208) 375-9424	11011	● Grade beef carcasses with chucks removed.	10/01/81
G. G. Ruppertsberger & Sons, Inc. 2639 Pennsylvania Ave. Baltimore, MD 21217 (410) 669-2600	5931	● Grade beef hindquarters and/or veal/lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)	10/03/80
Iowa Lamb Processing 315 10th Street Hawarden, Iowa (712) 551-1126	1638	● Grade lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)	05/22/07
J.W. Treuth & Sons, Inc. 328-334 Oella Avenue Baltimore, MD 21228 (410) 465-4650	2612	● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)	10/28/80
James F. O'Neill Packing Company, Inc. 3120 G Street Omaha, NE 68107 (402) 733-1200	889a	● Grade beef carcasses ribbed between the 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> ribs for export.	09/20/07
Lido Veal & Lamb Co. 2809 East 44 <sup>th</sup> Street Vernon, CA 90255 (323) 585-1591	1316	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade veal/calf carcasses from Gold Medal, Inc., Rome, NY (Est. 17965).</li> <li>● Grade veal/calf carcasses from Midway Meats, Centralia, WA (Est. 9347).</li> <li>● Grade veal/calf carcasses from Fancher's Meats, Shinnston, WV (Est. 17510).</li> <li>● Grade lamb carcasses from Fancher's Meats, Shinnston, WV (Est. 17510).</li> <li>● Grade veal/calf carcasses from Dairyman's Meat Company, Inc., Merced, CA (Est. 301).</li> <li>● Grade veal/calf carcasses carcasses from Michigan Veal, Inc., Hudsonville, MI (Est. 1816).</li> <li>● Grade imported Canadian veal/calf carcasses.</li> </ul>	03/03/93 01/29/97 01/29/97 09/05/97 04/05/00  12/11/01 07/12/04
Local Pride, LLC 120 West Highway 20 Gordon, NE 69343	32111	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)</li> <li>● Grade lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)</li> </ul>	08/15/05 08/15/05

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Mahan Packing Co. 6540 S.R. 45 Northwest Bristolville, OH 44402 (330) 889-2454	108 (State of Ohio)	● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)	11/24/80
Manning Foods, Inc. 9531 East Beverly Road Pico Rivera, CA 90661 (562) 908-1089	934	● Grade beef carcasses ribbed between the 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> ribs for export. ● Grade beef carcasses with the cross-cut chuck removed.	07/15/97  07/20/98
Mountain Meadows Lamb Corp. 4900 Clarkson Street, Unit B Denver, CO 80216 (303) 296-1801	5883	● Grade imported Australian lamb carcasses.	02/12/01
Mountain States Rosen, LLC Building C-16 Hunts Point Co-Op Market Bronx, NY 10474 (718) 842-4447	5157	● Grade veal and calf carcasses from Gold Medal Packing, Inc., Utica, NY (Est. 17965). ● Grade imported New Zealand lamb carcasses. ● Grade veal and calf carcasses from P&NI Packing, Wyalusing, PA (Est. 4763).	12/27/01  06/16/05 04/02/08
Noah's Ark Processors Corp. 1821 311 Ave Dawson, MN 56232 605-421-0422	34133	● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious) ● Grade lamb hindsaddles. (Religious)	02/01/08 03/17/08
Provimi Veal W2103 County Rd VV Seymour, WI 54165 (920) 833-6861	8984	● Grade imported New Zealand lamb carcasses.	09/27/05
Rosen of Colorado 920 North 7th Avenue Greeley, CO 80631 (800) 555-2551	19652	● Grade imported New Zealand lamb carcasses.	09/27/05
Star Packing Co., Inc. 3813 Cote Brilliante Avenue St. Louis, MO 63113 (314) 652-0262	2934	● Grade veal/lamb hindsaddles. (Religious) ● Grade beef hindquarters. (Religious)	12/29/80 10/01/82

<b><u>VENDOR</u></b>	<b><u>EST. NO.</u></b>	<b><u>EXEMPTION/COMMENTS</u></b>	<b><u>GRANTED</u></b>
Strauss Veal 9775 South 60th Street Franklin, WI 53132 (414) 421-5250	2444	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade imported Canadian veal/calf carcasses.</li> <li>● Grade veal/calf carcasses from Dairyman's Meat Company, Inc., Merced, CA (Est. 301).</li> <li>● Grade veal and calf carcasses from Gold Medal Packing, Inc., Oriskany, NY (Est. 17965).</li> </ul>	11/29/99 09/25/03 01/10/06
Wolverine Packing Co. 1340 Winder Street Detroit, MI 48207 (313) 568-1900	2574	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade lamb and veal/calf hindsaddles. (Religious)</li> </ul>	02/09/81
XL Four Star Beef 3435 Gomez Avenue Omaha, NE 68107 402-594-3274	532	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade imported Canadian (from Est. Nos. 597 and 401) beef hindquarters and forequarters (as matched carcasses)</li> </ul>	05/11/07
XL Four Star Beef 3611 East Amity Avenue Nampa, Idaho 402-594-3274	477	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grade imported Canadian beef carcasses</li> </ul>	11/16/07